

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 08179 070825Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ABF-01 FSE-00 TRSE-00 /012 W

----- 048276

P R 070323Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3850

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS BANGKOK 8179

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJ: INQUIRIES REGARDING DESTRUCTION U.S. CURRENCY DURING
EVACUATION OF SAIGON

REF : A. STATE 102658

B. BANGKOK 8027, PARA 2

FOR: EA/EX; BF/FSD AND CDO, TREASURY FROM KINSEY

FOR : BOUDREAU AND JAZYNK FROM KINSEY

1. FOLLOWING U.S. CURRENCY AND BLANK U.S. TREASURY CHECKS
WERE BURNED IN BARRELS OF NITRATE & CHARCOAL IN THE COURTYARD OF
THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING IN PRESENCE OF INDIVIDUALS NOTED BELOW:

INA JEAN KINSEY, U.S. DISBURSING OFFICER
JAMES MARTIN, SENIOR SEABEE ATTACHED TO REGIONAL SECURITY
OFFICE AND HIS ASSISTANT MR. TOM HOGE
RALPH BOOER, GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER AND
WALTER WEBBER, GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER

2. LISTED BELOW ARE \$20.00 CURRENCY NOTES IN BLOCKS OF \$80,000
EACH WHICH WERE BURNED. THE ACTUAL LISTING OF SERIAL NOS
WERE RECORDED BY ROY O. YONG, B7MO. HOWEVER MR. YOUNG DID NOT
WITNESS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CURRENCY.

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER AMOUNT

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 08179 070825Z

L 66080001C \$80,000

L 99040000A	80,000
L 99080000A	80,000
L 98720000A	80,000
L 98716000A	80,000
L 99084000A	80,000
L 99124000A	80,000
L 98632001A	80,000
L 99040001A	80,000
L 65944001C	80,000
L 98672001A	80,000
L 65996001C	80,000
L 65776001C	80,000
L 65864001C	80,000
L 65920001C	80,000
L 65740001C	80,000
L 65992001C	80,000
L 65728001C	80,000
L 66032001C	80,000
L 65804001C	80,000
L 65780001C	80,000
L 66108001C	80,000
L 66004001C	80,000
L 65912001C	80,000
L 65952001C	80,000
L 65924001C	80,000
L 65908001C	80,000
L 65752001C	80,000
L 98604001A	80,000
L 98684001A	80,000
L 65792001C	80,000
L 9916001A	80,000
SUB-TOTAL \$2,560,000	

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING PACKS OF CURRENCY NOTES IN \$20.00
AND \$10.00 DENOMINATIONS WERE BURNED:

\$20.00 CURRENCY NOTES
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER AMOUNT

L 65744301C \$2,000
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 08179 070825Z

L 65744401C	2,000
L 65744501C	2,000
L 65744601C	2,000
L 65744701C	2,000
L 65744801C	2,000

\$10.00 CURRENCY NOTES

L 05863873	\$1,000
L 13486801A	1,000
L 13487601A	1,000
L 13486301A	1,000

2A. INCLUDED IN THE BURNING WERE THE FOLLOWING BLANK U.S. TREASURY CHECKS 611120 - 612999.

2B. THE USDO WAS ORDERED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR AT APPROXIMATELY 1600 HOURS BY ORDERS OF THE AMBASSADOR TO RETREIVE \$100,000. AT THAT POINT, THE BLOCKS OF MONIES WERE IN THE NITRATE AND CHARCOAL SOLUTION AND SINCE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEPARATE \$20,000 FROM ONE OF THE BLOCKS OF \$80,000 THE USDO RETREIVED 2 BLOCKS TOTTALLING \$160,000. THE \$160,000 CONSISTED OF THE FOLLOWING SERIAL NUMBERS:

L 65728001C AND L 65804001C

THE SERIAL NUMBERS OF THE RETREIVED NOTES WERE VERIFIED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE EMBASSY. APPROXIMATELY 2 HOURS LATER, THE USDO WAS INFORMED BY THE ADMIN. COUNSELOR THAT THE \$160,000 SHOULD BE BURNED. THIS PROVED TO BE IMPOSSIBLE SINCE 10 FEET FLAMES WERE GUSHING FROM THE NITRATED BARRELLS AND ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING HELICOPTERS WAS AWAITING THE USDO. THE USDO, MR. MARTIN AND MR. HOGE THEN HAND CARRIED AND STUFFED ONE OF THE BRIEFCASES WITH THE \$160,000 TO THE ROOFTOP OF THE EMBASSY FOR SHREDDING. THE USDO PERSONALLY SAW THE BEGINNING OF THE SHREDDING, BUT DUE TO PRESSURE OF TIME AND ATTEMPTING TO GET ON THE HELICOPTER THE USDO DID NOT SEE THE COMPLETE SHREDDING OF THE CURRENCY NOTES. ALTHOUGH THE USDO DID NOT WITNESS THE COMPLETE SHREDDING OF THESE PARTICULAR NOTES. THE USDO ASSUMES THAT THEY WERE SHREDDED. ALSO BURNED WERE LOOSE CURRENCY NOTES TOTTALLING \$38,855.00. A GRAND TOTAL OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BANGKO 08179 070825Z

\$2,614,855.00. WAS BURNED.

3. THE USDO WAS NO PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF ANY "DIPLOMAT" OR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER STATING THAT \$5,000,000.00 WAS BURNED. HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR DID BRING 2 PIECES OF CHARRED \$20.00 NOTES TO THE USDO. WHEN THE USDO STATED TO THE COUNSELOR THAT THE CHARRED NOTED CONSISTING OF THE PORTRAIT AND SERIAL NUMBERS AROUND THE "PORTRAIT" SHOULD BE PICKED-UP, THE USDO WAS INFORMED THAT THE MONEY STILL GOULD NOT BE USED IF THE SERIAL NUMBERS WERE REPORTED TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION, THE USDO DID NOT SHOW ANY CHARRED PEICES OF CURRENCY NOTES TO ANY NEWSPAPER MAN OR WOMAN.

4. THE NAVY DISBURSING OFFICER, MISS ANNE HAZARD, HAD A CONSIDER-ABLE AMOUNT OF U.S. CURRENCY ON HAND. BY WORD OF MOUTH IN

THE RECEPTION CENTER AT MANILA AND ALSO IN BANGKOK, THE USDO
WAS INFORMED THAT \$6 TO \$7 MILLION DOLLARS WERE BURNED
AT THE DAO FACILITY. IT IS THE USDO'S UNDERSTANDING THAT MISS
HAZARD WOULD REPORT TO THE U.S. NAVY FINANCE CENTER IN CLEVELAND,
OHIO FOR PROCESSING OF HER FINAL ACCOUNTS.
MASTERS

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